

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /074 W
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P R 280933Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6949
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASST THE HAGUE
US MISSION NATO 1112
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6589

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: AREILZA PROMOTES HIMSELF AMONG THE OPPOSITION

1. SUMMARY: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA NOW APPEARS TO
BE TRYING TO PROMOTE HIMSELF WITH THE LEFT OPPOSITION AS
SUAREZ REPLACEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS AREILZA HAS INCREASINGLY IDENTI-
FIED HIMSELF WITH THE OPPOSITION. HE HAS HELD A SERIES
OF MUCH PUBLICIZED MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL "OUT" RANGING
FROM FROMER MINISTERS FRAGA AND CABANILLAS THROUGH CHRISTIAN
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DEMOCRAR GIL ROBLES AND PSOE SEC GEN FELIPE GONZALEZ

TO PCE LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO IN PARIS. AREILZA ALSO HAS GIVEN A NUMBER OF PRESS INTERVIEWS, INCLUDING A LENGTHY COVER STORY IN THIS WEEK'S CAMBIO 16, IN WHICH HE IS CRITICAL OF "REFORM" AS CURRENTLY BEING APPROACHED AND CALLS FOR THE OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT PERIOD.

3. PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LUIS YANEZ TOLD US AUGUST 27 THAT AREILZA, IN HIS MEETING THIS WEEK WITH FRLIPE GONZALEZ, TOLD THE PSOE SECGEN THAT:
SUAREZ HAS NEITHER THE CAPACITY NOR THE DESIRE TO CARRY OUT MEANINGFULLY POLITICAL REFORM, SAYING HE FAILED TO SIDE WITH AREILZA AND OTHER REFORMERS IN THE LAST ARIAS GOVERNMENT (WHEN SUAREZ WAS MINISTER SECGEN OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT);
THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS FOR AREILZA TO GO TO THE KING WITH THE BACKING OF THE MAJOR LEFT OPPOSITION GROUPS AND OTHER REFORMIST FORMER GOVERNMENT FIGURES, EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO HIM AND PROPOSE THAT A BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, WITH AREILZA AT ITS HEAD, REPLACE THE SUAREZ TEAM AND SUPERVISE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS;
THIS NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMPOSED OF LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL CURRENTS PROBABLY EXCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS.

4. INTERESTINGLY, EL PAIS CARRIED AN ARTICLE THIS WEEK, PERHAPS INSPIRED BY AREILZA, THAT, WITHOUT NAMING AREILZA IMPLIED MUCH OF WHAT YANEZ SAYS AREILZA IS PROPOSING.

5. ACCORDING TO YANEZ, THE PSOE ACCEPTS AREILZA PROPOSAL AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO IT IF THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO DELIVER ON REFORM, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT AREILZA IS ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AS MUCH AS PROPOSED POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE TRANSITION. THE PSOE, ALTHOUGH CONCERNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PERHAPS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE MILITARY "BUNLER", MIGHT BACK WATER ON REFORM, HAS BY NO MEANS GIVEN UP ON SUAREZ AND INTENDS TO PURSUE ITS ADVOCACY OF THE "NEGOTIATIONS" BETWEEN THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION.

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6. COMMENT: AREILZA'S MANEUVER CURRENTLY ARE LITTLE MORE THAN RATHER TROUBLESOME TO THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IF THE REFORM PROCESS BOGS DOWN. HIS ALTERNATIVE COULD BECOME MORE ATTRACTIVE IN LEFT OPPOSITION QUARTERS. A NUMBER OF LEFT OPPOSITION FIGURES, SUCH AS TIerno GALVAN, HAVE SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF A BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE "GOVERNMENT OF NATION CONCENTRATION", WHICH IS BASICALLY WHAT AREILZA IS STUMPING FOR, ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE DISAGREEMENT OVER THE

IDENTITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. MORE
OVER, AS IS WELL KNOWN, THE PRINCIPAL CENTERS OF POWER (INCLUD-
ING THE KING AND THE MILITARY) HAVE NOT WANTED HIM AS FOREIGN
MINISTER AND HIS CURRENT ACTIVITIES ARE NOT LIKELY TO
STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION WITH THEM IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID06589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0023
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760810/aaaaaiax.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AREILZA PROMOTES HIMSELF AMONG THE OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINT, SP, (AREILZA Y MARTINEZ-RODAS, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006